Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1-4. These sheets, which include Figures 1-4, replace the original sheets including Figures 1-4.

Attachment: 3 Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 remain in the application. Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 have been amended.

In the Office Action mailed October 19, 2004, the Examiner found claims 1-15 to be allowable. However, the Examiner requested that Figures 1-4 be designated by the legend "Prior Art." Applicants are submitting herewith substitute formal drawings appropriately labeled as "Prior Art." Approval and entry of these drawings in this application is respectfully requested.

The Examiner requested that the first paragraph of the specification be amended to include a reference to the parent application PCT/SG98/00094. Applicants have so amended the specification.

The disclosure was objected to because of informalities as noted on page 3 of the Office Action. More particularly, the Examiner required clarification for the allowable values of D as set forth on page 6, lines 27-30 of the specification. In particular, the Examiner indicated that if 0 was an allowable value for the look-ahead depth D, an illustration of the predetermined valid trellis path with a look-ahead depth of 0 was requested.

In response thereto, applicants respectfully direct the Examiner's attention to Figure 2 and to the specification at page 8, lines 7-22. In particular, at line 11 the specification describes "each node at level D has two state transitions emanating from it resulting in a total of $P=2^{D+1}$ nodes at level D+1." Thus, in Figure 2, the "level 0" shows a single node S_i having two state transitions emanating from it resulting in $P=2^1$ nodes at level 1.

The statement that the look-ahead depth parameter D may be an integer "between 0 and 3" as set forth on page 6, line 27, is not contradictory with the statement on lines 28-30 that look-ahead depths "of 0 and 1 are mandatory in the digital modem" and "look-ahead depths of 2 and 3 are optional." In other words, the depths of 0 and 1 are mandatory in a digital modem, and additional depths of 2 and 3 can be provided. Thus, the statement that "a look-ahead depth parameter D may be an integer between 0 and 3" at page 6, line 27, is not contradictory.

The Examiner also indicated that the specification did not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.72(b). Applicants are providing an abstract of the

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disclosure as set forth above. No new matter has been added. Amendment of the specification to include the abstract as set forth above is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 were objected to because of informalities as set forth on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 to overcome the informalities. No new matter has been added.

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance. Consequently, early and favorable action passing this case to issuance is respectfully solicited. In the event the Examiner finds minor informalities that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is urged to contact applicants' undersigned representative by telephone at (206) 622-4900 in order to expeditiously resolve prosecution of this application.

The Director is authorized to charge any additional fees due by way of this Amendment, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-1090.

All of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SEED Intellectual Property Law Group PLLC

E. Russell Tarleton
Registration No. 31,800

ERT:jl

Enclosure:
    Postcard
    3 Sheets of Drawings (Figures 1-4)

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